

NIO/CT

DISTRIBUTION:SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS CENTER
TWA HIJACKING WORKING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 9
SITUATION AS OF 0500 EDT, JUNE 18, 1985

The situation in Beirut remained essentially unchanged overnight, although the TWA plane was moved to the western side of the airport during the night so that Embassy observers can now only view the tail section of the aircraft. The aircraft was refueled with 24,000 pounds of fuel (approximately 2/3 full). Reports that the aircraft had undergone repairs June 17 were subsequently denied by MEA and airport officials in contact with Embassy Beirut. Ambassador Bartholomew has continued his contacts with Nabih Barri as instructed. Further reports that the aircraft took on explosives while in Beirut, monitored originally on Voice of Lebanon, were also denied by both Middle East airlines and airport officials. The whereabouts of the passengers remains unclear.

In public remarks last night Israeli Defense Minister Rabin said that the responsibility for negotiations with the hijackers and the well-being of the hostages rest solely with the Americans. Rabin repeated the Israeli formula that, should the United States appeal to Israel, the Cabinet would discuss whether to comply with the appeal.

Edward Marks
Edward Marks
Co-Director, TWAHWG

Ruth H. VanHeuven
Ruth H. VanHeuven
Senior Watch Officer

SECRET
DECL, OADR

State Dept. review completed

S
D
P
E
M
C
A
H
PA
INR
NEA (5)
EUR
M/CTP (5)
S/S-O (2)
S/S-S
S/S (3)
S/S-1
BOTPO
MILREP
EDITOR
WORKING GROUP
L
OC
CA
EB
IO
PM
UNA
OCS
SY
H/HO
PA/HO
AID
USIA
SP
PA/HO
AID
USIA
NSA (LDX)
SECDEF (LDX)
JCS (LDX)
CIA (LDX)
WHBR (LDX)
NSOC (LDX)
NMCC (LDX)
NMIC (LDX)
PBIS (LDX)